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*Young Children with Special Health Care Needs  
in San Francisco*

# ***Assessing our Reach***

*A summary of the findings*

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Report for:  
High Risk Infant Interagency Council of San Francisco

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# Acknowledgements

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The **High Risk Infant Interagency Council (HRIIC)** wishes to acknowledge the contribution and support of numerous people and organizations that contributed to the work of this study. We greatly appreciate the financial support of **First 5 San Francisco**. We would like to acknowledge the work of the four major agencies participating in this study. This report would not have been possible without the agencies that provide services to children with special health care needs - **California Children Services, Community Mental Health Services, Golden Gate Regional Center** and **San Francisco Unified School District** - generously giving permission to share the data necessary for this report. We appreciate the staff time that was involved in sharing the data and answering our questions. We thank the **American Institutes for Research** for all of their work in turning the data into meaningful findings.

The High Risk Infant Interagency Council (HRIIC) is a parent/ professional collaboration concerned with infants and young children, ages birth through five, with special health care needs. These children are those very young children who have, or may be at risk for, developmental delays. HRIIC is composed of representatives of agencies and organizations, public and private, who provide services to high risk infants and young children, and the parents of these children. HRIIC's mission is to ensure that all children with special health care needs in San Francisco, between the ages of birth through five, receive services in a timely and coordinated manner, through interagency collaboration.



**High Risk Infant  
Interagency Council**



# WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSESSMENT?

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The purpose of this project was to assess the extent to which children from birth through five years with special health care needs in San Francisco are being identified and served.

- **What did we hope to learn from this assessment?**

1. How many children with special health care needs, ages 0 through 5, live in San Francisco?
2. How many children receive services through the four primary agencies delivering services to children with special needs?
3. How many children with unknown special health care needs, ages 0 through 5, live in San Francisco (i.e., children with special health care needs who may not have been eligible for or receiving services from the four participating agencies)?\*

To answer those questions, the High Risk Infant Interagency Council (**HRIIC**) of San Francisco, in collaboration with First 5 San Francisco, commissioned the American Institutes for Research (**AIR**) to carry out this assessment

- **Who are the agencies who participated in the assessment?**

Four agencies serving the majority of children with special health care needs and their families in San Francisco participated in this study.

**The Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC)**, funded through the California Department of Developmental Services, provides evaluation, assessment, and ongoing services and supports to children with or at risk of developmental disabilities and their families.

**The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)** supports the educational needs of children with special health care needs.

**California Children Services (CCS)**, funded through the Children's Medical Service Branch of the California Department of Health Services, provides specialized medical services to children with serious, chronic and disabling physical conditions or diseases.

**San Francisco Community Mental Health Services (SFCMHS), part of the Department of Public Health**, is responsible for providing mental health services to meet the psychological and social service needs of children and their families.

Each of the above agencies provided data on those children served as of December 1, 2001

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\* The data used for this report do not provide information on whether the children with unknown special health care needs were eligible for services or were receiving services from special health care providers outside of the four participating agencies.

- **Who are children with special health care needs?**

The broad definition of children with special health care needs developed by the federal **Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCH)** and adopted by both HRIIC and First 5 San Francisco is used in this report:

*MCH defines a child with special health care needs as one “who has or is at increased risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions and who also requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.”*

## **DEFINITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY**

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The four agencies reporting data for this report have *definitions of eligibility for services* that differ from the broad definition used by the Maternal Child Health Bureau and adopted by HRIIC. These definitions are those that are legally mandated as criteria for each agency's eligibility determination.

### **California Children Services**

California Children Services (CCS) provides services to children ages 0 through 21. The CCS program covers almost all serious medical conditions of a physical nature that can be cured, improved, or stabilized. *Eligible conditions include birth defects (such as congenital heart disease); chronic illnesses (such as cystic fibrosis); malignancies; and certain serious injuries and physical disabilities.*

### **San Francisco Community Mental Health Services**

San Francisco Community Mental Health Services (SFCMHS) serves uninsured, under-insured, indigent, low income and impoverished and homeless populations. *Mental health services are approved and provided based on individual clinical need, and include assessment, evaluation, and counseling.* Community Mental Health Services also provides other services, such as child care mental health consultation, which provides mental health supports to children, their families and their providers. (Data from these indirect services are not included in this report.)

### **Golden Gate Regional Center**

Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) serves children under two different mandates, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Part C, and California's Lanterman Act.

**Ages Birth to Three** In California, the Departments of Developmental Services and Education are the lead agencies for implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C. This section of the federal education act provides for early intervention services for children birth to three. Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) are the local entities responsible for implementation.

California has chosen to serve all three categories of eligibility identified in IDEA, Part C of the federal law. *These conditions are those that qualify children birth to three for early intervention services:*

- *infants and toddlers with developmental delays,*
- *established conditions that lead to developmental delay, and*
- *infants and toddlers who are high risk for developmental delay*

GGRC provides services to the majority of eligible children under Part C of IDEA. (See the following section on eligibility for San Francisco Unified School District for details on the eligibility for early intervention services provided through the school district.)

**Ages Three and Over** At age three, eligibility criteria for Regional Center Services, as defined by California's Lanterman Act, became more narrow than those for early intervention services. The GGRC uses the definition of developmental disability found in the California Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4512, which defines it as a disability that originates before an individual attains age 18, continues or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial handicap for that individual.

A substantial handicap is a condition that results in major impairment of cognitive and/or social functioning, and represents a condition of sufficient impairment to require interdisciplinary planning and coordination of special or generic services to assist the individual in achieving maximum potential.

*Those conditions that qualify children and adults ages 3 and older for services from Regional Centers are:*

- *mental retardation*
- *cerebral palsy*
- *epilepsy*
- *autism*
- *other disabling conditions that are closely related to or that require treatment similar to that required for individuals with mental retardation.*

## **San Francisco Unified School District**

San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) provides services to children under two separate sections of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), dependent on the child's age:

**Ages Birth to Three** The California Department of Education (and locally San Francisco Unified School District) share responsibility with the Regional Center for implementation of early intervention services to children ages birth to three. *They are responsible for providing services to children meeting the IDEA, Part C definition with a solely low incidence disability. (A solely low incidence disability is one that occurs at a much lower incidence rate than others, and includes hearing impairments, vision impairments, severe orthopedic impairments; or any combination of these three conditions).*

**Ages Three and Over** At age three years, however, eligibility criteria for special education services as defined by IDEA, Part B, are more stringent than those for early intervention services (i.e., those for children from birth to three years), and some children may become ineligible for services for which they previously qualified.

*Disabilities that qualify for special education services under IDEA, Part B are:*

- *Autism*
- *Deafness*
- *Deaf-Blindness*
- *Emotional Disturbance*
- *Established Medical Disability*
- *Hard of Hearing*
- *Mental Retardation*
- *Multiple Disability*
- *Orthopedic Impairment*
- *Other Health Impairment*
- *Specific Learning Disability*
- *Speech or Language Impairment*
- *Traumatic Brain Injury*
- *Vision Impairment*

# QUESTIONS AND FINDINGS

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## Question 1

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### How many children with special health care needs, aged 0 through 5 years old, are there in San Francisco?

Using data from the 2000 Census, the population of children aged birth through five years old in San Francisco was estimated to be 41,146.<sup>1</sup>

To determine the total number of children were children with special health care needs, the assessment consulted three different studies.<sup>2</sup> These studies estimate a total number of children based on *the broad definition of children with special health care needs as defined by MCH.*

The estimated percentage of children with special health care needs ranges from 13.7% to 18%. Given the number of children in San Francisco, this means that there are anywhere from 5,637 to 7,406 children living in the city with special health care needs.

### How many of these children were eligible for services under IDEA, Parts B and C?

The state of California has an overall identification rate of 2.63% of children 0 through 5 receiving services under IDEA.<sup>3</sup> In San Francisco, this equates to 1,082 children. Using the national identification rate of 3.43%, the number is 1,411 children ages birth through five years old.<sup>4</sup>

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## Question 2

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### How many children with special health care needs are receiving services through the four major agencies?

**How many children does each agency serve?** The four participating agencies, Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC), San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), California Children Services (CCS) and San Francisco Community Health Services (SFCMHS) collectively served a duplicated total\* of 1,833 children with special health care needs.

***Duplicated\* Count of Children Served by  
GGRC, SFUSD, CCS, and SFCMHS as of December 1, 2001***

Agency	Number of Children	Percentage of Duplicated Total
Golden Gate Regional Center	846	46%
San Francisco Unified School District	470	26%
California Children Services	342	19%
San Francisco Community Mental Health Services	175	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Duplicated total represents the total number of children who are clients of these four agencies. This number is higher than the “unduplicated count” because some children are served by two or more agencies. In “duplicated” numbers, they are counted twice or three times.

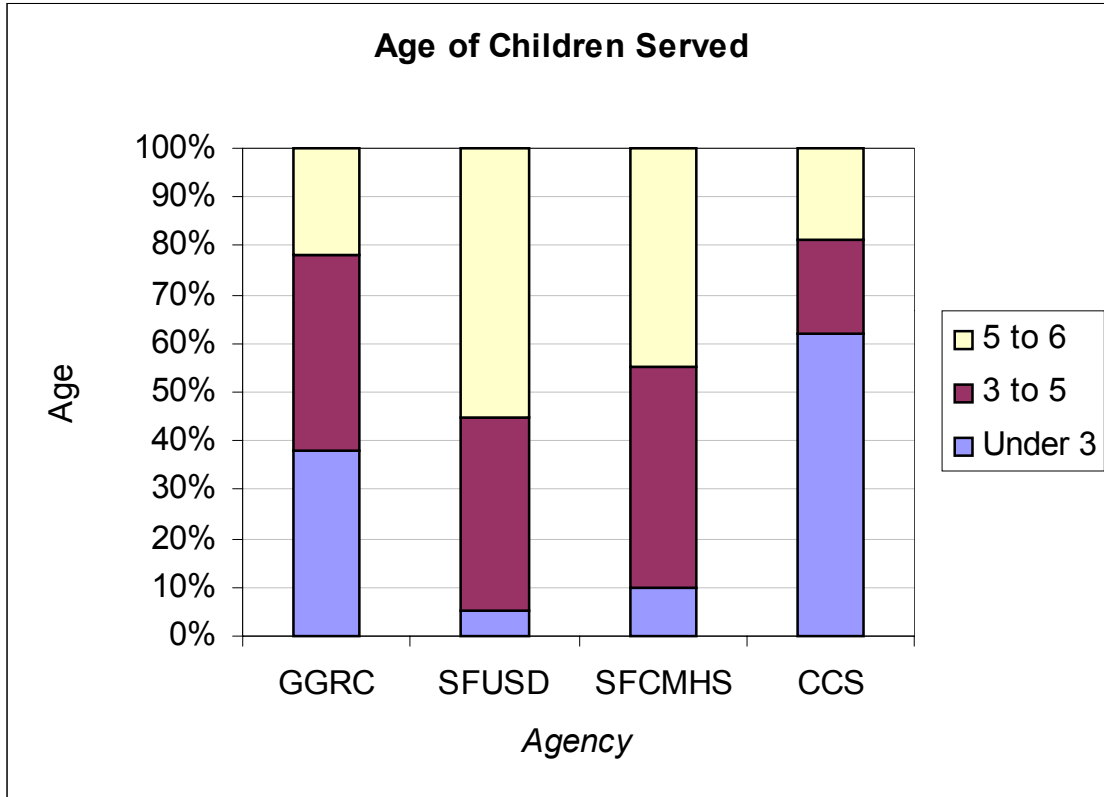
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## WHO ARE THESE CHILDREN SERVED BY EACH AGENCY?

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### For each agency, what are the ages?

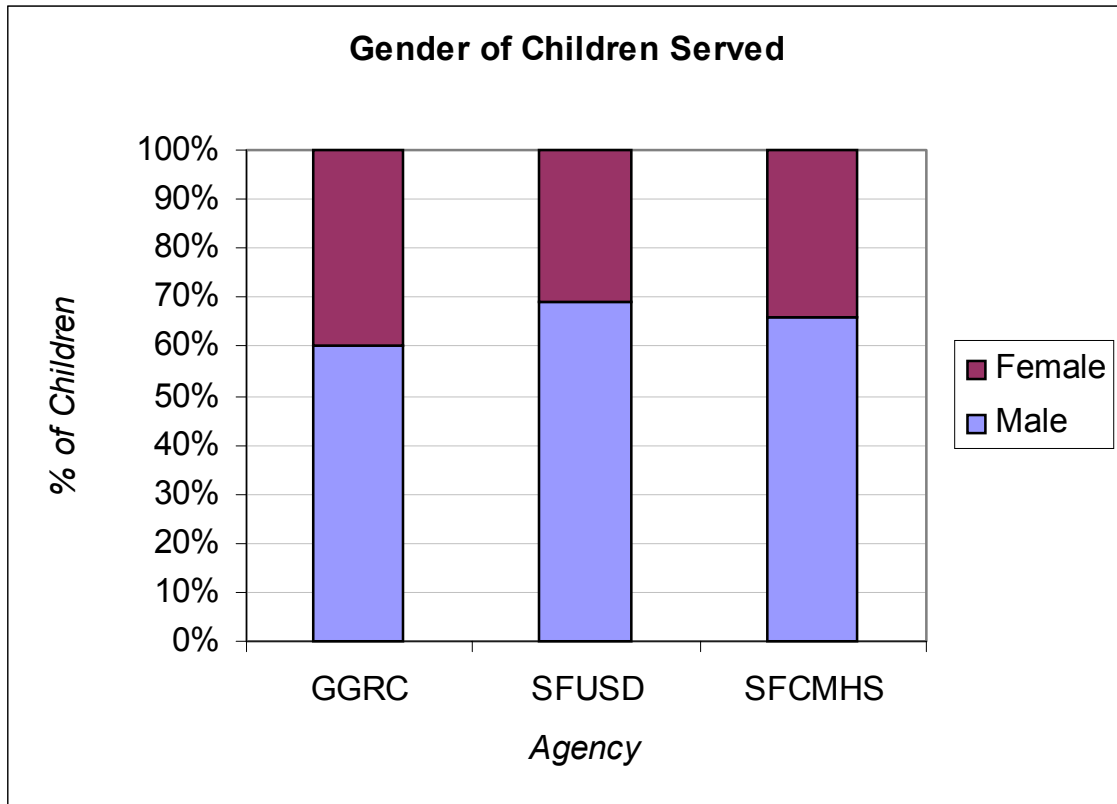
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The age breakdown for SFUSD and SFCMHS are similar for ages birth to 5 years old (51% SFUSD, 55% SFCMHS) and for ages 5 to 6 (49% SFUSD, 45% SF CMHS).

The age breakdowns for GGRC and CCS are similar for ages birth to 5 (78% GGRC, 86% CCS). Often, both GGRC and CCS diagnose disabilities that are apparent in the earlier years of a child's life, e.g., diseases or disorders of the nervous system.

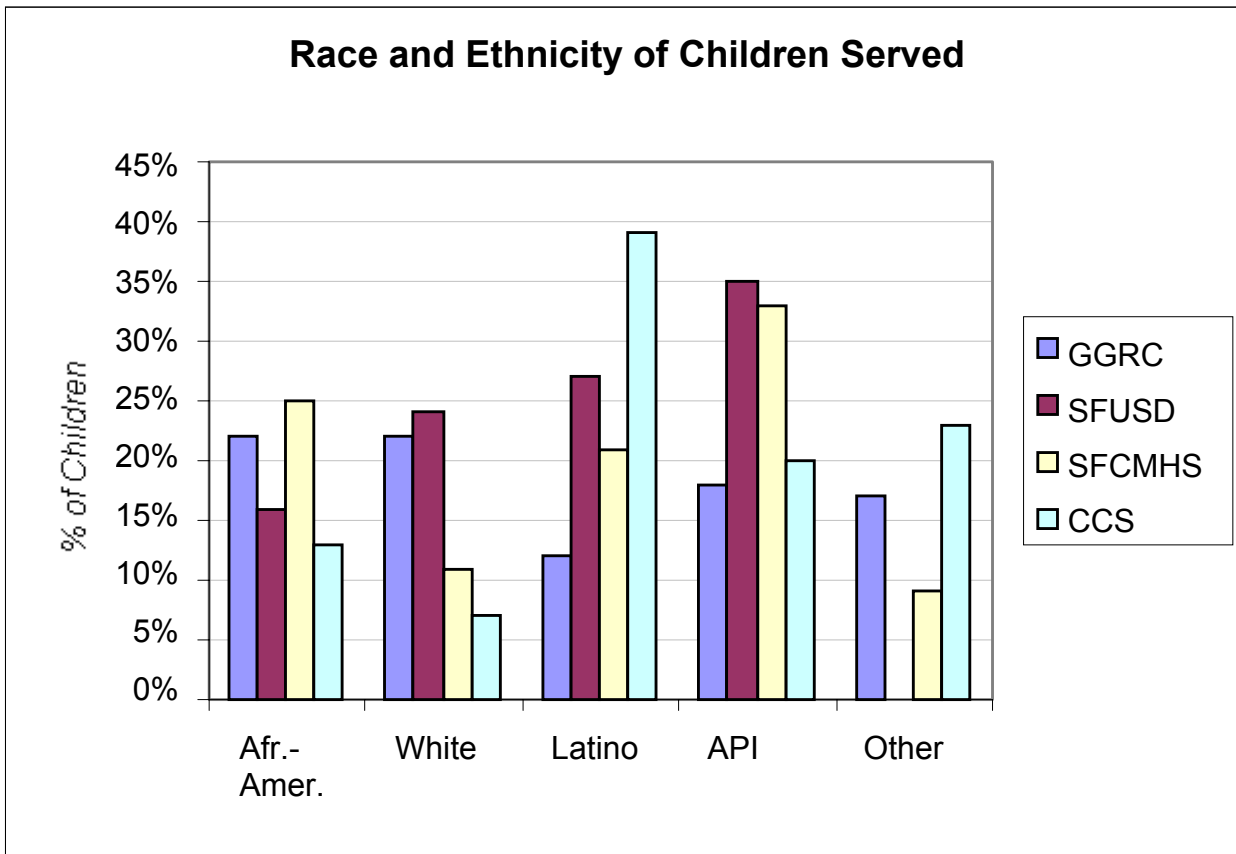
## For each agency, what is the gender?



There are a greater proportion of males to females for each of the three agencies that provided gender data (Gender data from CCS was not available for this study; however, current CCS gender data is 53% male and 47% female). Males represented 60% of the children served by GGRC, 69% served by SFUSD and 66% served by SFCMHS.

## For each agency, what is the ethnic breakdown?

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Hispanics and Latinos make up the largest proportion of children in CCS (27%), Asians and Pacific Islanders make up the largest proportion in SFUSD (35%) and SFCMHS (33%).

African-Americans and Whites make up the largest proportions (22% in each ethnicity category) of children served by GGRC.

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## Question 2 (continued)

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**How many children with special health care needs are receiving services through the four major agencies?**

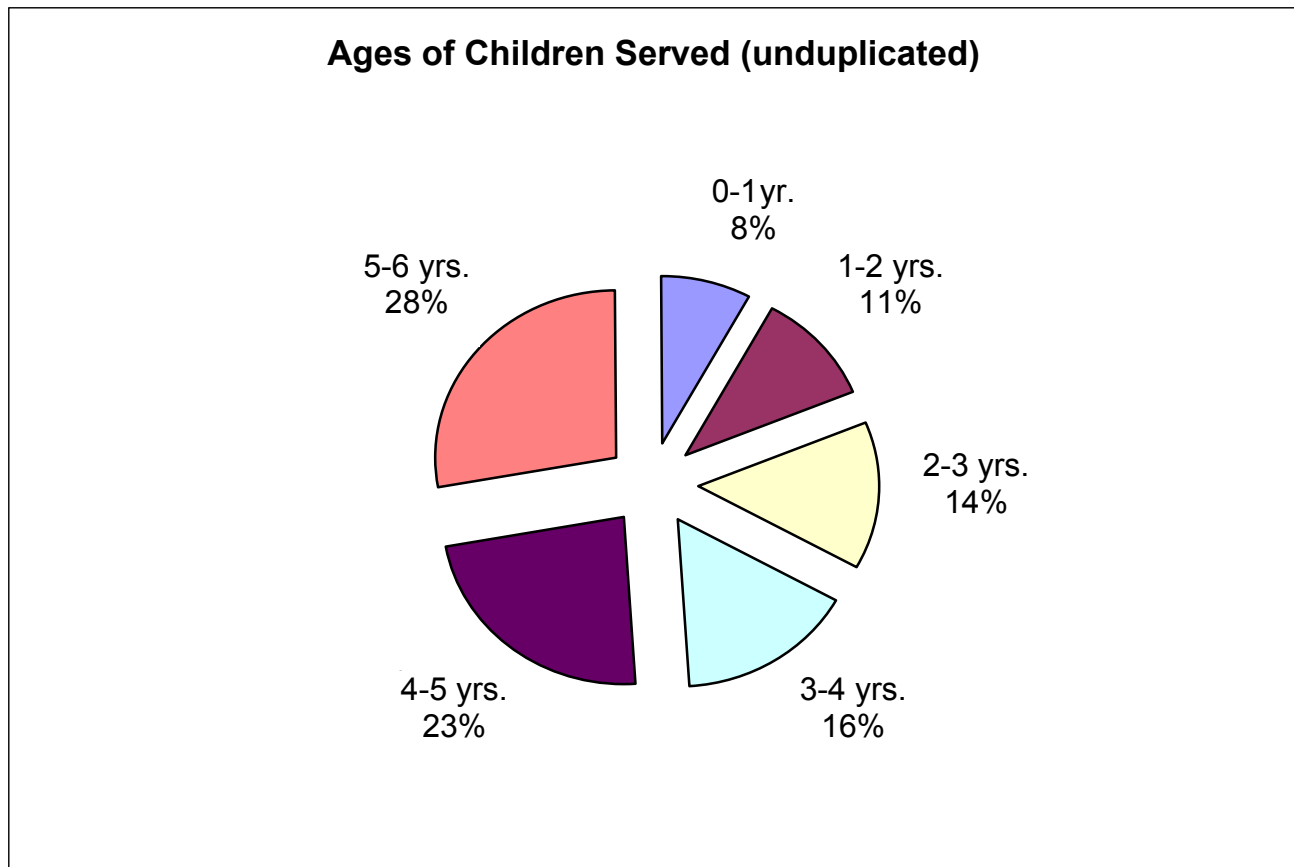
**How Many Individual Children Receive Services?** Of the 1883 duplicated children, 246 of these children were served by two or more of the participating agencies. Twenty-eight (28) of these children were served by three of the agencies.

Removing the children counted more than once, the study found that **1,559 unduplicated\*** children are currently receiving services from one or more of the reporting agencies.

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## Overall, how are different ages represented?

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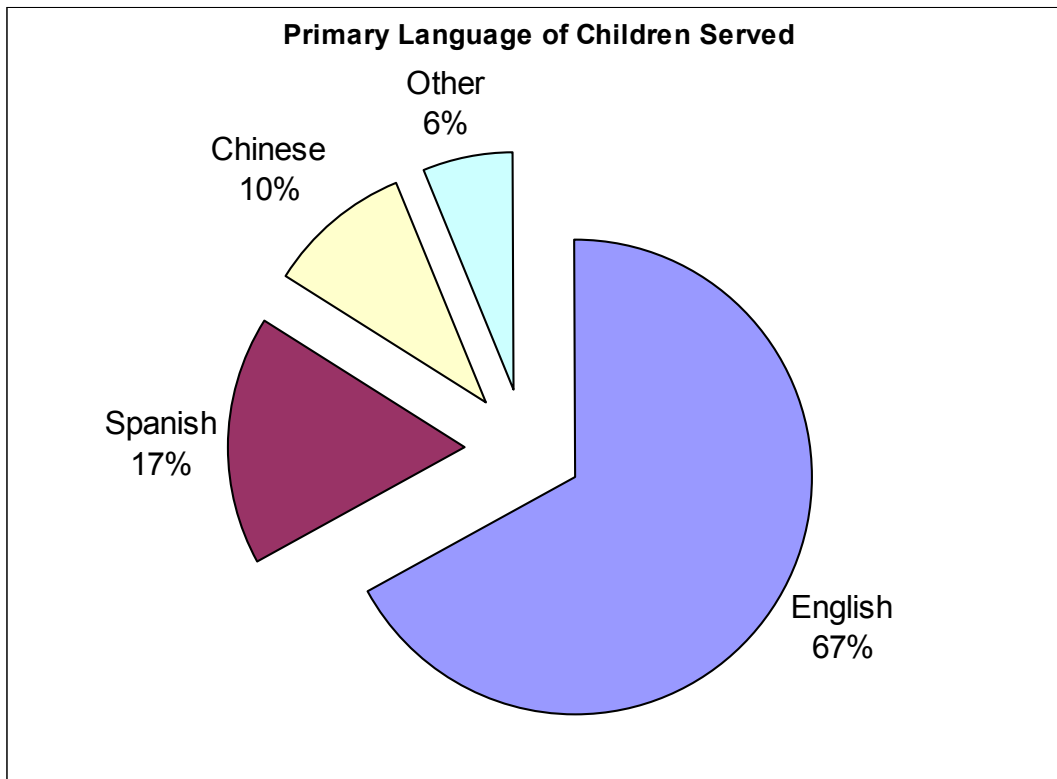
Using the unduplicated data, five year olds make up the largest proportion (29%) of the children, followed by four year olds (23%).

The smallest proportion of children was children under one year old (8%).

\* Unduplicated numbers represent the overall number of children served by these four agencies.

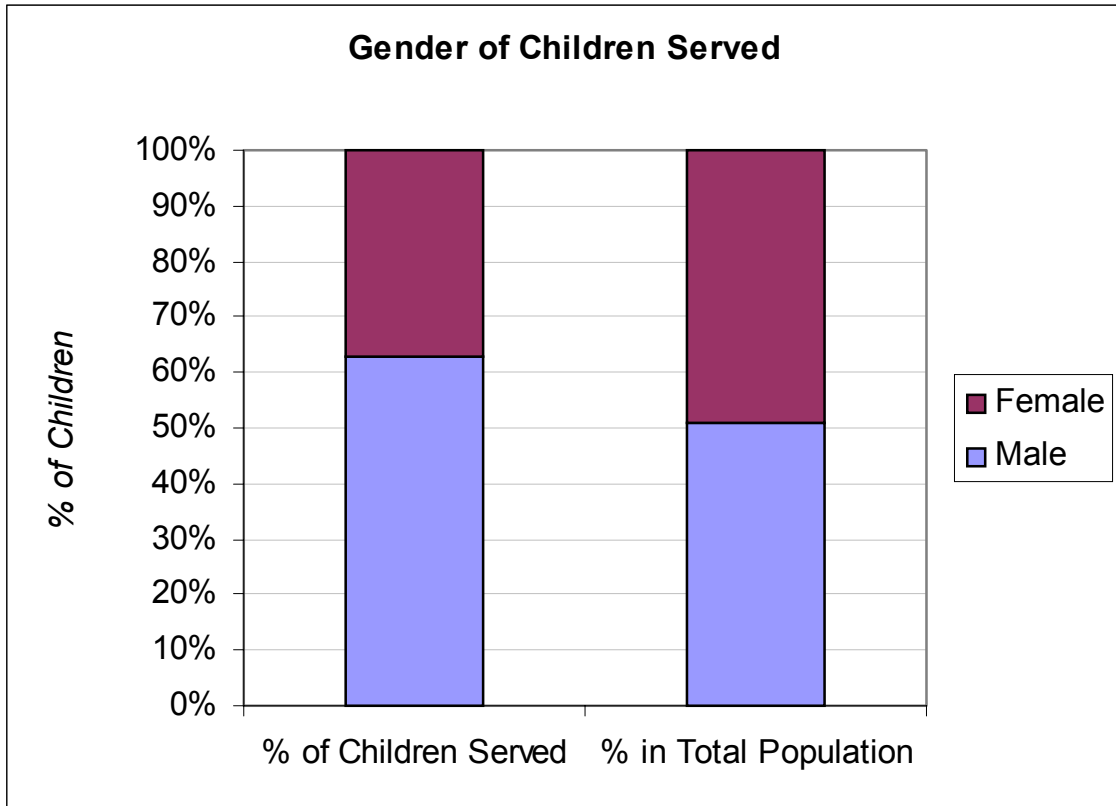
## Overall, how are children represented by primary language?

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The primary language of the majority of children served is English (67%), followed by Spanish/Portuguese/Other Latin (17%) and Chinese dialects (10%).

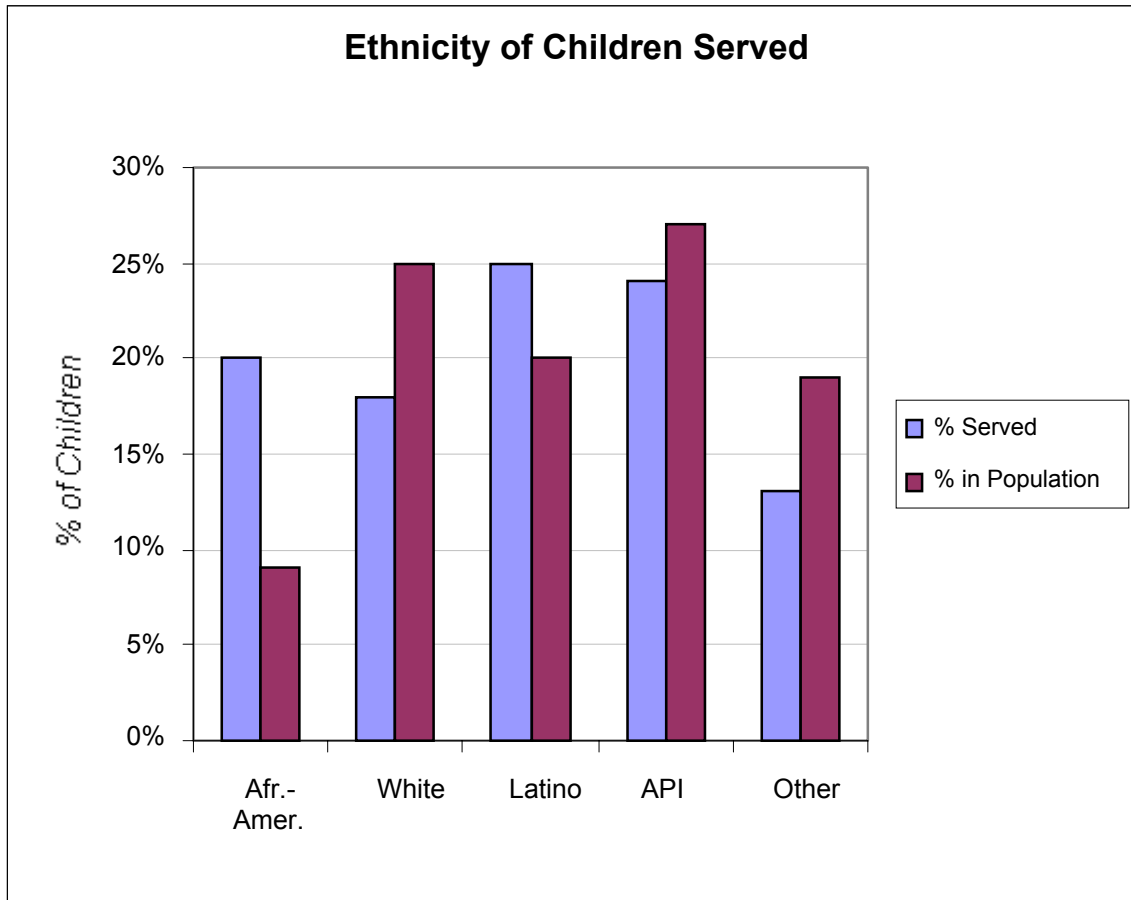
## Overall, how are children represented by gender?



A disproportionate ratio of males to females was served by the four agencies (63% males and 37% females), as compared to the distribution in the total population (51% males and 49% females.)

881 boys were served; of these 196 were age birth to three, and 625 were ages three through five. 485 girls were served, and of these, 146 were age birth to three, and 339 were age three through five.

## Overall, how are children served by ethnicity?

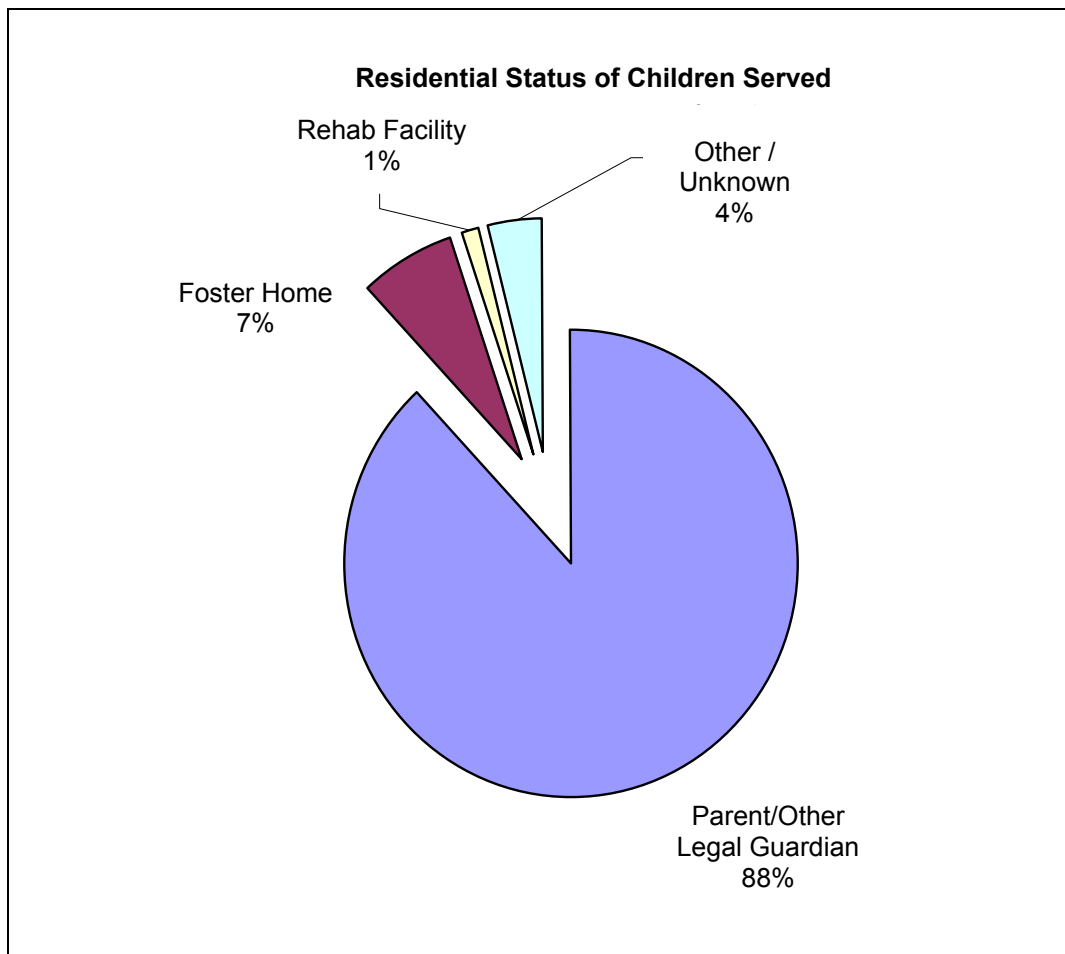


A comparison of the breakdown of the ethnicities shows a considerably higher proportion of Hispanic/Latino and African-American children in the served population (25% and 20%, respectively), than in the total population (20% and 9% respectively.)

In contrast there are a considerably lower proportion of White and Multicultural children in the served population (18% and 2% respectively) than in the total population (25% and 9% respectively.)

## Overall, how are children represented by residential status?

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The majority of children (89%) live with a parent, relative or legal guardian, followed by county or state foster home placements (7%).

## Overall, how are children represented by zip code?

Zip Code	Neighborhood	Number of Children in Unduplicated Count	Percentage of Children in Unduplicated Count, 2001	Percentage of Children in Total Population, 2000	Percentage Difference between Children Served and Children in Population
94110, 94125	Inner Mission/Bernal Heights	244	16%	12%	+4%
94112	Outer Mission Ingleside-Excelsior	199	13%	13%	0%
94124	Bayview/Hunter's Point	161	10%	8%	+2%
94134	Visitacion Valley	128	8%	8%	0%
94132	Stonestown/Lake Merced	90	6%	3%	+3%
94122	Sunset	67	4%	7%	-3%
94109	Russian/Nob Hill	63	4%	4%	0%
94102	Hayes Valley/Tenderloin	62	4%	3%	+1%
94115	Pacific Heights/Western Addition	59	4%	3%	+1%
94116	Parkside/Forest Hill	59	4%	6%	-2%
94121	Outer Richmond/Sea Cliff	54	4%	5%	-1%
94103	South of Market	42	3%	2%	+1%
94118	Inner Richmond/Presidio/Laurel	41	3%	5%	-2%
94131	Twin Peaks/Glen Park/Diamond Heights	37	2%	3%	-1%
94133	North Beach/Telegraph Hill	32	2%	3%	-1%
94127	West Portal/St. Francis Wood	30	2%	3%	-1%
694107	Potrero Hill	28	2%	2%	0%
94117	Haight/Western Addition/Fillmore	28	2%	3%	-1%
94114	Castro/Noe Valley	26	2%	2%	0%
94108	Chinatown	18	1%	1%	0%
94123	Marina/Cow Hollow	13	1%	2%	-1%
Outside SF	-	10	1%	-	-
94129	Presidio	9	1%	<1%	1%
94130	Treasure Island	7	<1%	<1%	0%
94120	Pacific Heights/Western Addition	6	<1%	-	-
94111	Embarcadero/Gateway	3	<1%	<1%	0%
94104, 94105, 94119	Financial District, Downtown	3	<1%	<1%	0%
Blank/ Data Entry Error	-	40	3%	-	-

## Overall, how are children represented by eligible condition?

The primary eligible conditions reported for the largest proportion of children were:

- speech and language impairments (17 percent)
- emotional disturbances or disorders (5 percent)
- autism and/or Asperger's Disorder (5 percent)
- diseases or disorders of the nervous system (4 percent)
- diseases of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue (4 percent)

Many children had two or more diagnoses that often included a physical and a mental health or learning disorder. For example, 5 percent of the children had autism and/or Asperger's Disorder listed as their primary disability, but several others had autism and/or Asperger's Disorder plus one or more physical, mental, or learning disorders.

It is important to note that the primary *eligible condition* for each child may not reflect the primary *special health care need* of the child. For example, a child may have a vision impairment, cerebral palsy and developmental delays. CCS may perceive cerebral palsy as the eligible condition for that child. GGRC may perceive developmental delay to be the eligible condition for their services. Depending on the child's need, the vision impairment may qualify the child for services from the school district or a private provider.

The following table lists the large variety of eligible conditions reported.

Primary Qualifying Condition(s) for Eligibility	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Speech or Language Impairment	262	17%
Emotional Disturbance or Disorder	81	5%
Autism <i>and/or</i> Asperger's Disorder/Pervasive Developmental Disorder	71	5%
Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b> Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System and Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	70	4%
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	65	4%
Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear; <b>OR</b> Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear and Other Specified Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence	49	3%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	47	3%
Diseases of the Circulatory System; <b>OR</b> Diseases of the Circulatory System and Reactive Attachment Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood	31	2%
Mental Retardation	28	2%
Speech or Language Impairment and One Additional Physical Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congenital Deformities; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Digestive System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear</li> </ul>	24	2%

Primary Qualifying Condition(s) for Eligibility	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Mental Retardation and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autism; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Specified Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Emotional Disturbance; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Speech or Language Impairment</li> </ul>	20	1%
Other Mental Health [Feeding Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood, Other Healthy Infant or Child Receiving Care, Parent-Child Relational Problem, <b>OR</b> Reactive Attachment Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood] or Physical Condition [Extreme Immaturity (Weight)]	16	1%
Specific Learning Disability and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear</li> </ul>	15	1%
Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases, Diseases of the Blood, or Diseases of the Skin	15	1%
Congenital Deformities	14	1%
Other Specific Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence	13	1%
Mental Retardation and Two or More Additional Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autism and Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System and Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Multiple Disability; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Multiple Disability and Diseases and Disorders of the Eye or Ear; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Multiple Disability and Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Multiple Disability and Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment, Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System, and Diseases of the Digestive System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment and Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment and Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue and Speech or Language Impairment</li> </ul>	13	1%
Diagnosis Deferred on Axis I or No Diagnosis (Blank) on Axis I (SFCMHS)	31	2%
Orthopedic Impairment <b>OR</b> Orthopedic Impairment and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congenital Anomalies; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System</li> </ul>	12	1%
Diseases of the Digestive System	11	1%
Speech or Language Impairment and One Additional Mental or Learning Disorder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional Disturbance; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Reactive Attachment Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Specific Learning Disability</li> </ul>	10	1%
Autism <i>and/or</i> Asperger's Disorder/Pervasive Developmental Disorder and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Speech or Language Impairment</li> </ul>	10	1%
Diseases of the Genourinary System	10	1%
Other Health Impairment and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases and Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Emotional Disturbance</li> </ul>	9	1%
Multiple Disability <i>or</i> Multiple Disability and One or More Additional Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue and Diseases of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear and Disorders of the Nervous System</li> </ul>	8	1%

<b>Primary Qualifying Condition(s) for Eligibility</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Percentage of Children</b>
Other Health Impairment	8	1%
Emotional Disturbance and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Specific Learning Disability; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment</li> </ul>	7	1%
Infectious Diseases	7	1%
Neoplasms; <b>OR</b> Neoplasms and Other Specified Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence	7	1%
No Diagnosis (GGRC)	595	38%
Diagnosis Deferred on Axis I or No Diagnosis (Blank) on Axis I (SFCMHS)	31	2%

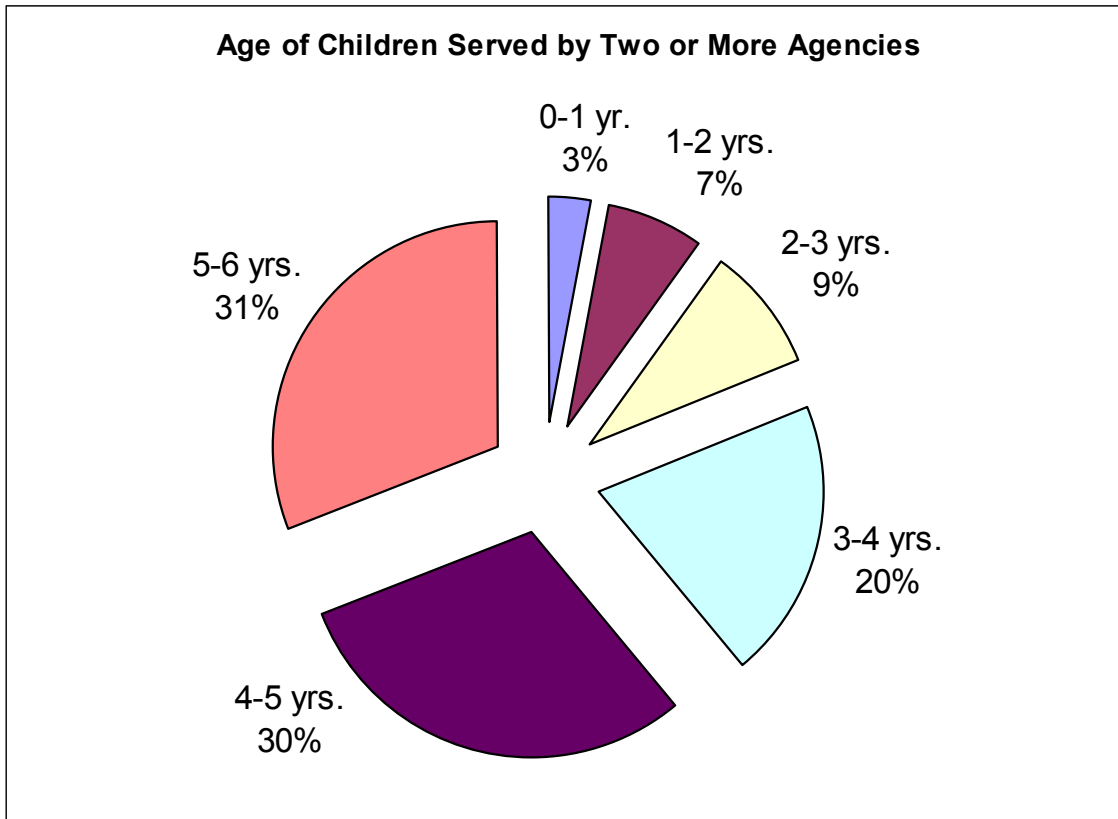
## **Who are the children receiving services from two or more participating agencies?**

Of the 1,559 children receiving services, 246 were served by two or more of the participating agencies, and 28 children were served by three agencies.

### **Children Served by Two or More Participating Agencies as of December 1, 2001**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of Children Served by Each Agency</b>	<b>Number of Children Served by Both Agencies</b>	<b>Age Breakdown of Children Served by Both Agencies</b>	
San Francisco Community Mental Health Services	175	28	Birth to Three Years	-
San Francisco Unified School District	470		Three through Five Years	28
San Francisco Community Mental Health Services	175	16	Birth to Three Years	4
Golden Gate Regional Center	846		Three through Five Years	12
San Francisco Community Mental Health Services	175	6	Birth to Three Years	2
California Children Services	342		Three through Five Years	4
San Francisco Unified School District	470	145	Birth to Three Years	6
Golden Gate Regional Center	846		Three through Five Years	139
San Francisco Unified School District	470	38	Birth to Three Years	3
California Children Services	342		Three through Five Years	35
Golden Gate Regional Center	846	69	Birth to Three Years	30
California Children Services	342		Three through Five Years	39

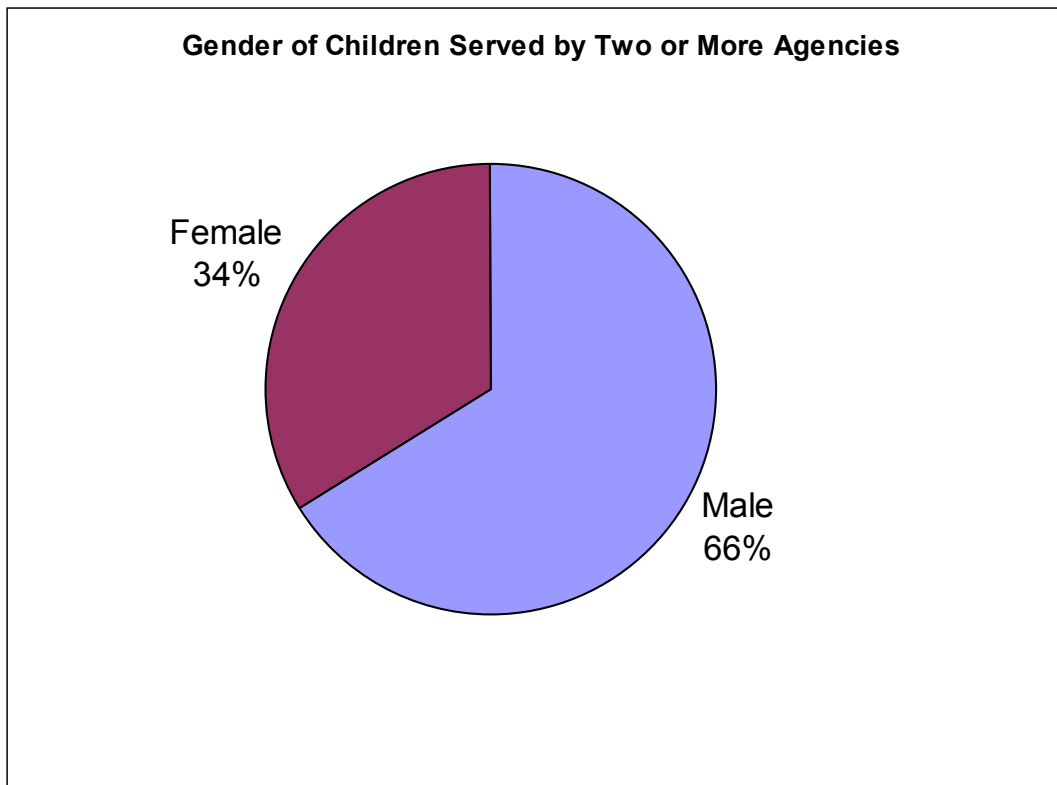
## How are children served by two or more agencies represented by age?



Of children served by two or more agencies, over 80 percent were three through five years of age, and almost 20 percent were birth to three years of age.

## How are children served by two or more agencies represented by gender?

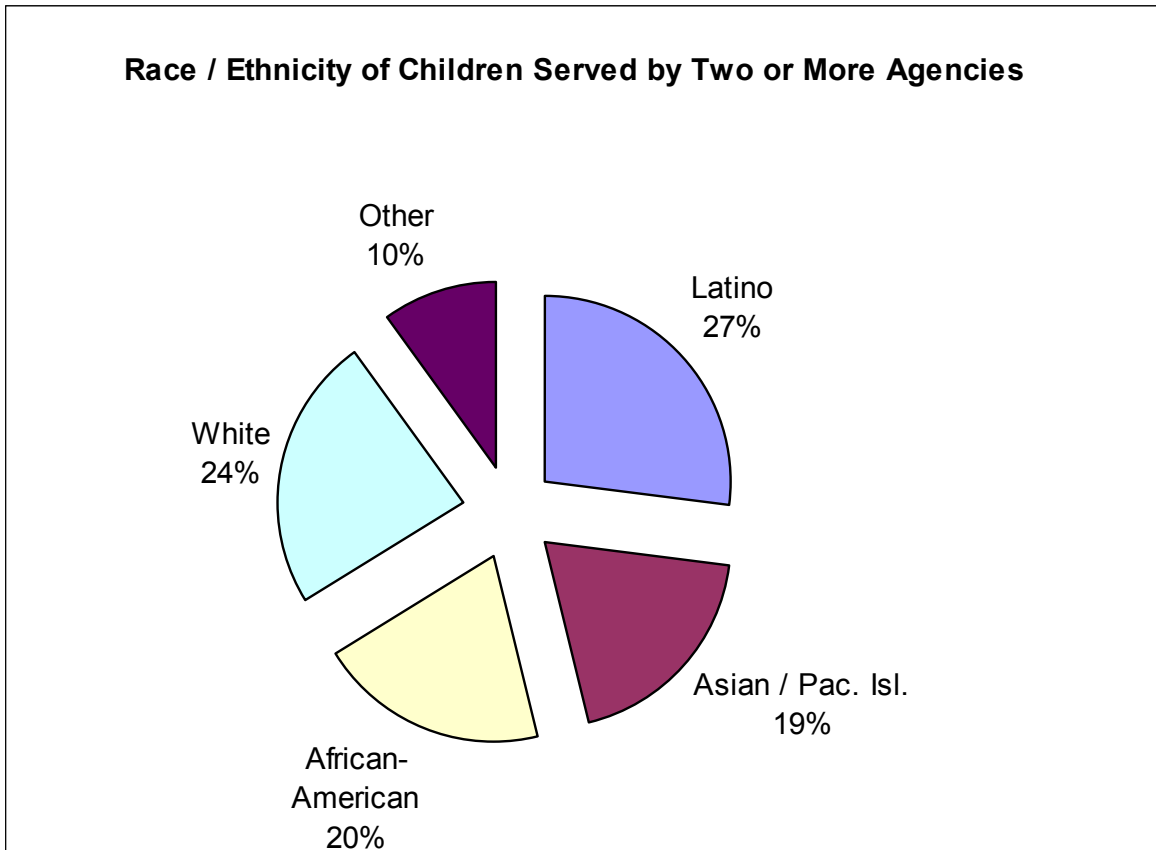
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Approximately two-thirds of the 246 children served by two or more agencies are male, and one-third are female.

## How are children served by two or more agencies represented by ethnicity?

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Hispanic children make up the largest proportion (27%) of children served by two or more agencies, followed by whites (24%), African-Americans (20%), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (19%).

## How are children served by two or more agencies represented by eligible condition?

The primary eligible conditions reported for the largest proportion of children served by two or more agencies were:

- speech or language impairment (18 percent)
- speech or language impairments and one additional physical condition (10 percent)
- autism and/or Asperger’s Disorder (9 percent)
- diseases of the nervous system (7 percent)
- autism and/or Asperger’s Disorder plus one other condition (6 percent)

It is again important to note that the primary *eligible condition* for each child may not reflect the primary *special health care need* of the child. For example, a child may have a vision impairment, cerebral palsy and developmental delays. CCS may perceive cerebral palsy as the eligible condition for that child. GGRC may perceive developmental delay to be the eligible condition for their services. Depending on the child's need, the vision impairment may qualify the child for services from the school district or a private provider.

The following listing notes the primary eligible conditions for those children served by two or more agencies.

Primary Qualifying Condition(s) for Eligibility	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Speech or Language Impairment	45	18%
Speech or Language Impairment and One Additional Physical Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congenital Deformities; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Digestive System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear</li> </ul>	24	10%
Autism <i>and/or</i> Asperger’s Disorder	22	9%
Diseases of the Nervous System or Diseases of the Nervous System and One Addition Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Specific Learning Disability</li> </ul>	18	7%
Autism <i>and/or</i> Asperger’s Disorder/Pervasive Developmental Disorder and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Speech or Language Impairment; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Mental Retardation</li> </ul>	14	6%

Primary Qualifying Condition(s) for Eligibility	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear or Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Specified Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Specific Learning Disability</li> </ul>	13	5%
Mental Retardation and Two or More Additional Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System and Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Multiple Disability; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Multiple Disability and Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment and Diseases of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment, Diseases of the Digestive System, and Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Speech or Language Impairment and Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Multiple Disability and Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment and Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases</li> </ul>	12	5%
Other Health Impairment or Other Health Impairment and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Health Impairment and Diseases of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment and Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment and Emotional Disturbance</li> </ul>	12	5%
Speech or Language Impairment and One Additional Mental or Learning Disorder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional Disturbance; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Reactive Attachment Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Specific Learning Disability</li> </ul>	11	5%
Emotional Disturbance or Emotional Disturbance and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Specific Learning Disability</li> </ul>	10	4%
Mental Retardation and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Health Impairment; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Other Specified Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Emotional Disturbance; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Speech or Language Impairment</li> </ul>	10	4%
Diseases of the Circulatory System; <b>OR</b> Diseases of the Digestive System; <b>OR</b> Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue	9	4%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	9	4%
Mental Retardation	9	4%

Primary Qualifying Condition(s) for Eligibility	Number of Children	Percentage of Children
Orthopedic Impairment and/or Orthopedic Impairment and One Additional Condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congenital Anomalies; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System</li> </ul>	7	3%
Multiple Disability and One or More Additional Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases of the Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue and Diseases of the Nervous System; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Diseases or Disorders of the Eye or Ear and Diseases or Disorders of the Nervous System</li> </ul>	6	2%
Other Specified Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence; <b>OR</b> Other Specified Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period/Disorder of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence and Neoplasms	5	2%
Congenital Deformities; <b>OR</b> Neoplasms; <b>OR</b> Extreme Immaturity (Weight)	5	2%
Reactive Attachment Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood; <b>OR</b> Reactive Attachment Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood and Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	1%
No Diagnosis (GGRC) or Diagnosis Deferred on Axis I (SFCMHS)	3	1%

### QUESTION 3

**How many children with unknown special health care needs, ages 0 through 5, live in San Francisco (i.e., children with special health care needs whom may not have been eligible for or receiving services from the four participating agencies)?**

The estimated number of children with special health care needs not being served by (and most likely not eligible for services from) the four major agencies as of December 1, 2001 ranges from 4,078 to 5,847 birth through five-year-olds. These numbers are based on published estimates of the percentage of children in the population with special health care needs ranging from 13.7 percent to 18 percent. The data used for this report do not provide information on whether the children with unknown special health care needs were eligible for services or were receiving services from special health care providers outside of the four participating agencies.

***Estimated Numbers of San Francisco Children, Ages 0 through 5, with Special Health Care Needs***

Estimated % of Children with Special Health Care Needs	13.7% - 18% <sup>5</sup>
Estimated number of Children with Special Health Care Needs – 2001	5,637 – 7,406
Number of Children Served by Four Agencies Reporting	1,559 <sup>6</sup>
Estimated number of Children with Unknown Special Health Care Needs	4,078 – 5,847

***Estimated number of children, ages 0 through 5, eligible for services under IDEA, Parts B and C***

Estimated Percentage of Children Served by GGRC and SFUSD through IDEA, Parts B and C	1.89% <sup>7</sup>
Estimated Percentage of Children in California Eligible Under IDEA, 1999	2.63% <sup>8</sup>
Estimated Number of San Francisco Children, ages 0 through 5 Eligible Under IDEA using California's Estimate, 2001	1,082
Estimated Percentage of U.S. Children Eligible Under IDEA, 1999	3.43% <sup>9</sup>
Estimated Number of San Francisco Children Eligible Under IDEA using the U.S. Estimate, 2001	1,411

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# SUMMARY OF KEY DATA FINDINGS

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## Outreach and Identification

- *Families of differing ethnic groups access services from the four reporting agencies at different levels than the rest of the population. San Francisco Community Mental Health Services and San Francisco Unified School District serve a higher number of Asian/Pacific Islander families than other agencies. (See page 9). A higher proportion of Hispanic/Latino and African-American children receive services, and a lower proportion of white and multi-cultural children receive services than the total population. (See page 13)*
- *In some neighborhoods, there are discrepancies between the estimated population and identification rate. (See page 15)*
- *San Francisco rates of identification for children eligible for services through IDEA, Parts C (ages birth to three) and B (ages 3 through five) are somewhat lower than the state average, and the state average is lower than the national average. (See page 26)*

Impact on Children & Families: Families of different ethnic groups and neighborhoods access services at different levels. Outreach efforts may be over-identifying or missing certain segments of the population.

Question Raised: Are there ways that we can better identify those children who may need services? Are families receiving services through other agencies, such as health plans?

## Screening and Assessment

- *Identification rates increase as children grow from birth to five. We appear to be identifying a significant number of children when they reach kindergarten. (See page 10)*

Impact on Children & Families: Families may not be receiving the assistance/supports they need to identify delays in their children and seek services as early as possible.

Questions Raised: What are some of the reasons for this? Are we screening and assessing children as early as possible?

- *Children can have several different conditions, and the criteria for eligibility for those conditions can vary from agency to agency. Further, these diagnoses may not be the child's primary special need or disabling condition. This report was unable to capture all diagnoses of each child. (See pages 16-18).*

Impact on Children & Families: Multiple assessments can be duplicative, use inconsistent language/terminology, and create confusion and difficulties for families.

Questions Raised: Are there ways that we can standardize assessment processes and reporting and still allow for the information each agency needs to determine eligibility?

### **Coordination of Services Between Agencies**

- *246 children are receiving services by two or more agencies. (See page 19) and 28 are seen by three out of four agencies.*
- *45 children under the age of three receive services from more than one agency.*

Impact on Children & Families: Children and families may not be accessing services as early as possible, and receiving the full scope of services they may need or be eligible to receive.

Questions Raised: What happens at age three that causes children to receive services from more agencies? Are children receiving services from other agencies, such as health plans?

### **Numbers of Children with Unknown Special Health Care Needs Not Eligible for Services from the Four Major Public Agencies**

- *It is estimated that approximately 4,078-5,847 of San Francisco's children meet the definition of children with special health care needs (see page 26) but are most likely not eligible for services from the four major public agencies.*

Impact on Children & Families: There are children with special health care needs with conditions that do not make them eligible for services from major public agencies, yet who may require specialized support and services.

Questions Raised: What are the special health care needs of these children, and what additional services and supports might they need? What other agencies are serving these children?

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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Sources: *United States Census, 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov>, San Francisco County QuickTables and *The California Child Care Portfolio, 2001*, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, California Components of Population Change: July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2001 (Annual) and California Department of Health Services, (2002), *Center for Health Statistics: Vital Statistics Query System*, California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics (2000).

<sup>2</sup> Sources: Stein, R.E., & Silver, E.J. (1999). Operationalizing a conceptually based noncategorical definition: A first look at U.S. children with chronic conditions. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*, 153, 68-74.  
Newacheck, P.W., Marchi, D., McManus, M., & Fox, H. (1998, March). *New estimates of children with special health care needs and implications for the state Children's Health Insurance Program* (Maternal & Child Health Policy Research Center, Fact Sheet Number 4).  
Shaw, P., Santos, S., Cohen, A., Araki, C., Provance, E., & Reynolds, V. (2001). *Barriers to Inclusive Child Care: Executive Summary of Research Study Findings and Recommendations*. Sacramento, CA: California Children and Families Commission.

<sup>3</sup> Source: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report to Congress, Table AH1, p. A-361, Table AA7, p. A-15, Table AF2, p. AF2, p. A-349, and Table AF3, p. A-350. Note: These estimated percentages only reflect those children who were *receiving* services

<sup>4</sup> Source: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report to Congress, Table AH1, p. A-361, Table AA7, p. A-15, Table AF2, p. AF2, p. A-349, and Table AF3, p. A-350. Note: These estimated percentages only reflect those children who were *receiving* services

<sup>5</sup> Sources: Stein, R.E., & Silver, E.J. (1999). Operationalizing a conceptually based noncategorical definition: A first look at U.S. children with chronic conditions. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*, 153, 68-74.  
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<sup>6</sup> Source: Data collected for needs assessment

<sup>7</sup> Source: Data collected for needs assessment on numbers of children served December, 2001 by GGRC, ages birth to three (through IDEA Part C), and numbers served by SFUSD (through IDEA, Part C and Part B), ages birth through five.

<sup>8</sup> Source: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report to Congress, Table AH1, p. A-361, Table AA7, p. A-15, Table AF2, p. AF2, p. A-349, and Table AF3, p. A-350. Note: These estimated percentages only reflect those children who were *receiving* services

<sup>9</sup> Source: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report to Congress, Table AH1, p. A-361, Table AA7, p. A-15, Table AF2, p. AF2, p. A-349, and Table AF3, p. A-350. Note: These estimated percentages only reflect those children who were *receiving* services



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